



Jeffrey Hardin Johnston

January 9, 1980 - April 2, 2023

His parents were told they could not have children, so they planned their life accordingly. Then 11 years later, Jeffrey Hardin Johnston was born on January 9, 1980, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Ron and Marvene Johnston. He called himself an accident, his parents called him a blessing. He was an easy child to raise. He was mindful, respectful and accepting of the rules mom and dad had laid down.....mostly.

His early years, outside of school, were spent fishing and swimming. Much of it with the Sperlings, who they spent many weekends with on Ft. Gibson Lake, later graduating to Jet Skis. He also spent much of his time with the Addisons, going on vacations with Rod, Jan, and their three sons.

Jeff attended Owasso Schools all through to his graduation. He was a member of the Odyssey of the Mind team, which was a creative problem solving team that went to the world finals. He later became a competition judge. He attended the Quartz Mountain Art Institute on a writing scholarship. After working in Yellowstone National Park, he returned to attend Oklahoma City University and the University of Oklahoma.

Jeff was blessed with athletic ability and talent, and he loved his sports, playing baseball, soccer, football, track, karate, and other "made up" games. He played catcher on the Oklahoma team that competed in the 16-year-old World Series in Wisconsin. He went to the State Champion as a sophomore in pole vaulting. He was MVP on the Owasso track team his Junior season. He was also one of the youngest in Oklahoma to achieve a Jr. Black Belt in

Taekwondo.

Jeff was fiercely loyal to his friends. While he had invested greatly in learning the craft of pole vaulting, having studied under Olympian Joe Dial as well as receiving training at the University of Kansas, he gave up his opportunity at the state championships his Senior season so that he could play soccer just one season with his friends on the school team. To him, it was an easy decision.

His other love was music, or, his first love really. He progressed from air guitar with a chestnut roaster to the real thing when his grandmother gave him a small Harmony guitar. It didn't take long for him to learn all his dad could teach him, and was mostly self-taught after that. Still today someone will occasionally mention the Shampoo Horns, the band he formed in high school. They had a dedicated group of fans who attended every performance. He would later move to Austin, Texas, to study music production and sound engineering at Arlyne Studios, more commonly known as Willie Nelson studios. That is where he met Drew Mix, who would become a dear friend. After high school Jeff rarely played in bands. He wrote and recorded many songs, most of them solo. He composed and recorded the soundtrack's on Sterlin Harjo's early films, all receiving awards at the Sundance Film Festival. Jeff had three dogs in his life that were and are uniquely his, FEEKS, Murphy Brown, and Otis Redding. FEEKS and Otis are buried at the cabin he loved so much, which is where he wished for his ashes to be scattered. The cabin was his favorite place, next to Cedar Lake at the foot of Talimena Drive in the Kiamichi Mountains, the place he considered home.

Jeff was extremely close to his family. He clung tightly to the traditions created during the holidays. His Aunt Dee and Aunt Sue considered him their grandson.

An avid outdoorsman, many followed him on Facebook to see what recent critter he may have befriended. That one encounter with a Copperhead he would probably take back. He had an unusual sense of humor and wit that made his writing fun to read.

Few can imagine the courage shown during his battle, which was remarkable, although difficult to witness. All the time he was thinking and worrying more about others than himself.

He was still concerned about his mom and dad to the very end.

Those he leaves behind who hold many cherished memories include:

His parents, Ron and Marvene Johnston

Aunt Dee Metzger, Aunt Sue and Uncle Charles Blake

Cousins, Steve and Debbie Salmon, Don and Teri Sawyer, D and Leah

Mashburn, Alex and Lacey Mehlinger, Rod and LeAnne Blake, Mindy Blake,

Shayne and Lindsey Martinez, Max and Angie Blake, Matthew and Sydney

Ferren, Kirby Blake, James and Tami Sawyer, and a host of other friends and

relatives. A celebration of Jeff's life was held 1:30 Friday, April 14, 2023, at the

Mowery Funeral Service Chapel in Owasso with Steve Mowery officiating and

Drew Nix providing special music.

Arrangements and services were entrusted to Mowery Funeral Service of

Owasso.

www.moweryfs.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 14. 1:30 PM (CT)

Mowery Funeral Service Chapel
9110 North Garnett Road
Owasso, OK 74055

Tribute Wall



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Hardin Johnston.*



April 13, 2023 at 11:26 PM



“ *What can I say about my cousin Jeff that friends & family members may not already know. He was extremely talented musically and educationally. He was completely fearless which I was so jealous of, he didn't meet an animal, insect, mammal or reptile he wasn't afraid of. And even though he was mine & Leah's older cousin he never treated us like we were the annoying younger cousins. He always included us while we spent holidays at my nanny's house. Rather it was playing games in the pool, exploring down by the creek or playing volley ball during the summer. One of my favorite memories was when I accidentally poisoned him, we were playing volley ball & the wasp and bees were terrible so I grabbed a can of wasp spray & tried to kill the things. Which not realizing Jeff's drink was in the line of fire until he took a drink of it. 🤢 needless to say he realized immediately & being the great guy he was he didn't get too mad at me and we all had a pretty good laugh. Though our time was robbed of him we have many great memories to look back on & I will cherish the time I had with him.*

Lacey Mehlinger - April 13, 2023 at 09:23 PM

DM

“ I could write a book about my memories of Jeff but I will keep it short. When he was born I felt like he was my first grandchild, loved feeding him and watching him sleep. As a little boy he was always entertaining us. As a grown man he always came to our family gatherings. The holidays and every other day will not be the same without him. I loved him very much and will never forget him.
Delores Metzger (Aunt Dee)

Delores Metzger - April 11, 2023 at 04:31 PM

DO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Don - April 11, 2023 at 04:14 PM

DS

“ Have lots of good memories from the earliest of times of the baby shower for him, holidays, days at the pool, and his wonderful creations on the 4th. My heart is broken and I will miss him. Love you Ron and Doe Doe. You know I'm here for you if you need anything at all.

Don & Teri Sawyer - April 11, 2023 at 04:09 PM

CT

“ Charles and Tracy purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey Hardin Johnston.



Charles and Tracy - April 10, 2023 at 01:55 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Hardin Johnston.

April 09, 2023 at 06:40 PM

JT

“ John Titsworth purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jeffrey Hardin Johnston.



John Titsworth - April 09, 2023 at 04:05 PM

CY

“ Cynthia lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Hardin Johnston



Cynthia - April 08, 2023 at 07:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Hardin Johnston.*



April 08, 2023 at 07:14 PM



“ *There are not enough words to express our sadness, thoughts and memories. Jeff will always hold a very special place in our hearts and we will miss him dearly. As time goes on - we we will forever be reminded of Jeff in so many ways and places. Sending all our love - Rod and Jan Addison*

Rod & Jan Addison - April 05, 2023 at 02:06 PM